

Decking the halls doesn't have to add up to more waste this holiday season. Reduce your climate impact. Prevent or reduce waste and keep valuable resources out of the garbage by recycling more — it's easy to do. Here are some ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle during the holiday season.

Consider a living tree. Potted Christmas trees, available at many nurseries, are usually smaller than cut trees. They should only be kept in the house for about a week, so they don't start sprouting new growth. You can keep the tree outside, haul it in to enjoy it at Christmastime for several years, and then eventually plant it in the yard or give it away.

Tree cycle. When you're done with your cut Christmas tree, turn it into compost for healthy gardens.
[Find out how.](#)

Give experiences. Reduce your holiday footprint and give an "experience gift" instead of stuff.
[Find out more..](#)

Use eco-friendly lights. Energy-efficient LED light strands use 90 percent less energy than traditional lights and come in lots of different colors and shapes.

Buy fresh and local. For holiday meals and parties, use locally-grown and organic foods. Farmers markets feature foods, holiday greens and flowers- some are open through December. [Visit Puget Sound Fresh.](#)

Recycle food. All food scraps and food-soiled paper and yard clippings go in your **yardwaste cart**, including:

- Figgy pudding, mistletoe, wreaths (remove any wire or metal), bones, meat, cheese, fruit and vegetables. Paper bags, napkins and greasy cardboard pizza boxes also get recycled and made into compost.

Recycle the basics. Common holiday items that go in your recycling cart:

- Prepare your recycling by rinsing cans and bottles and flattening cardboard. Place extra recycling in a box, next to the collection cart on pickup day.
- Clean pie tins, plastic deli trays and lids (wider than 3 inches), empty eggnog and milk cartons, ice cream cartons, newspaper, cans, jars, and tubs; catalogs, greeting cards, envelopes, cardboard, clean aluminum foil and non metallic gift wrap.

Garbage items. Holiday items **that you cannot reuse** should go in the **Garbage cart** include:

- Ribbons and bows, foil wrapping paper and burned out holiday lights.
- [Fats, oil and grease](#) should be placed in a lidded container and placed in the garbage.

Reduce and reuse to save money:

- Ribbons and bows, foil wrapping paper and holiday lights.
- Food: Too good to waste. Learn how to reduce food waste.

Recycle options for miscellaneous items. There are several local drop-off recycling locations for hard-to-recycle items, including:

- TVs, cell phones and other electronics, as well as Styrofoam, batteries, large quantities of cooking oil and other items.
- [Visit What Do I Do With..?](#) to find a location near you.

[Find us on Facebook](#)

for the Holidays.



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Alternate Formats Available:
206-296-4466 • TTY Relay: 711